

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 874

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Delmer Wallen, Sr., of Kingsport.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Delmer Wallen, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Delmer Wallen was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity for thirty-two years as president and general manager of the Kingsport Grocery Company, in which position he earned the respect of his peers, employees, and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wallen was in the wholesale grocery business for a total of forty years, during which time he also managed wholesale grocery companies in Middlesboro and Harlan, Kentucky, and in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving the wholesale grocery business, this industrious man became a real estate broker and insurance agent; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wallen was committed to the betterment of his community and was active in a variety of civic organizations; he served on the boards of the Holston Valley Community Hospital, the Salvation Army in Kingsport and Middlesboro, Kentucky, and the Junior Achievement of Kingsport, which he served as president; and

WHEREAS, he also rendered sterling service as a member of the Kingsport Community Chest, now the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the East Tennessee State University National alumni board, and president of the Harlan County, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; in addition to being a charter board member of Girls, Inc., he was a charter member of The Optimist Club of Downtown Kingsport, which he served as president, and a past governor of the Tennessee District of Optimist; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Mr. Wallen served as a member of the executive board of the Sullivan County Republican Party for many years, and as chairman of the Sullivan County Republican Party for one term; and

WHEREAS, he was a 50-year member of the American Legion, having served his country with distinction during the Korean Conflict with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and he was one of the founders and the charter president of the National 361<sup>st</sup> Engineer Construction Battalion Reunion Group; he was also a York Rite Mason and Shriner; and

WHEREAS, Delmer Wallen, Sr. was an active and devout member of the West View Primitive Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as clerk/treasurer, adult Sunday school teacher, and member of the quartet; and

WHEREAS, Delmer Wallen was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-one years, Jean Casteel Wallen, and was the proud father of daughter, Donna Bailey, and her husband, Bob, and sons, Chief Petty Officer Delmer Wallen, Jr., and his wife Vicki, and David Wallen, and his wife Cathy; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his five grandchildren, Elizabeth Bailey, Bobby Bailey, Chase Wallen, Will Wallen, and Katie Wallen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wallen was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Bertha Bledsoe Wallen, sisters, Lola Mae Robinette, Belva Wallen, and Goldie Tittle, and brothers, O.J. Wallen, Ellis Wallen, Sr., Burnis Wallen, Glynn Wallen, and Paul Wallen; and

WHEREAS, Delmer Wallen, Sr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Delmer Wallen, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Wallen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.